

1. (Previously Presented) An intervertebral implant comprising:
a first member for engaging a first vertebral body, the first member comprising a first surface with a first curve, the first curve having a first radius of curvature;
a second member for engaging a second vertebral body, the second member comprising a second surface with a second curve, the second curve having a second radius of curvature smaller than the first radius of curvature; and
a center member adapted for placement at least partially the between the first member and the second member;
wherein the first member is translatable with respect to the second member and the first and second members are biased towards a central alignment along a longitudinal axis passing through the first and second vertebral bodies.
2. (Previously Presented) The intervertebral implant of claim 1 wherein the first radius of curvature is constant and has a first center point.
3. (Previously Presented) The intervertebral implant of claim 2 wherein the second radius of curvature is constant and has a second center point.
4. (Previously Presented) The intervertebral implant of claim 3 wherein central alignment comprises alignment of the first and second center points along the longitudinal axis.
5. (Previously Presented) The intervertebral implant of claim 3 wherein the first surface has a first recess defined by a sweep of the first constant radius of curvature and the second surface has a first protrusion defined by a sweep of the second constant radius of curvature.
6. (Withdrawn) The intervertebral implant of claim 1 wherein the first curve has a variable radius.

7. (Previously Presented) The intervertebral implant of claim 1 wherein the first surface has a combination of curved and flat portions.
8. (Previously Presented) The intervertebral implant of claim 1 wherein the center member includes a first mating surface adapted to mate with the first surface of the first member, the first mating surface having a third radius of curvature substantially similar to the first radius of curvature of the first surface; and
a second mating surface adapted to mate with the second surface of the second member, the second mating surface having a fourth radius of curvature substantially similar to the second radius of curvature of the second surface.
9. (Previously Presented) The intervertebral implant of claim 1 wherein the center member articulates between the first and second surfaces as the first member is translated relative to the second member.
10. (Withdrawn) The intervertebral implant of claim 1 wherein the second surface has a semi-cylindrical protrusion extended along a lateral axis.
11. (Original) The intervertebral implant of claim 1 wherein the second surface has a semi-spherical protrusion.
12. (Withdrawn) The intervertebral implant of claim 1 wherein the first and second surfaces have depressions.
13. (Withdrawn) The intervertebral implant of claim 1 further comprising a restraint mechanism for restricting motion along a lateral axis.
14. (Original) The intervertebral implant of claim 1 wherein the first member is translatable with respect to the second member along an anterior-posterior axis.

15. (Original) The intervertebral implant of claim 1 further comprising a neutral position and a first position wherein in the first position, the implant is biased to move toward the neutral position.

16. (Original) The intervertebral implant of claim 15 wherein in the first position, the first curve is in closer conformance with the second curve.

17. (Original) The intervertebral implant of claim 1 wherein the first curve is wider than the second curve.

18. (Previously Presented) The intervertebral implant of claim 1 wherein the first member is superior to the second member along the longitudinal axis.

19. (Original) The intervertebral implant of claim 1 wherein the first surface is concave and the second surface is convex.

20. (Withdrawn) The intervertebral implant of claim 1 wherein the first and second surfaces are concave.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously Presented) A method for installing a vertebral implant device between two vertebral bodies in a vertebral column, the method comprising:

engaging a center member with a first curved surface of a first member, the first curved surface having a first radius of curvature;

engaging the center member with a second curved surface of a second member, the second curved surface having a second radius of curvature smaller than the first radius of curvature;

engaging the first member with a first vertebral body; and

engaging the second member with a second vertebral body;

wherein the first member is translatable with respect to the second member and further wherein the first and second curved surfaces are biased toward central alignment along a longitudinal axis passing through the first and second vertebral bodies.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously Presented) The intervertebral implant of claim 1 wherein the first member includes a first engagement surface for engaging a first vertebral endplate of the first vertebral body.

25. (Previously Presented) The intervertebral implant of claim 24 wherein the first engagement surface is shaped to substantially conform to a first shape of the first vertebral endplate.

26. (Previously Presented) The intervertebral implant of claim 25 wherein the first engagement surface is substantially flat.

27. (Withdrawn) The intervertebral implant of claim 25 wherein the first engagement surface is at least partially curved.

28. (Withdrawn) The intervertebral implant of claim 25 wherein the first engagement surface is at least partially convex.

29. (Previously Presented) The intervertebral implant of claim 25 wherein the second member includes a second engagement surface for engaging a second vertebral endplate of the second vertebral body.

30. (Previously Presented) The intervertebral implant of claim 26 wherein the second engagement surface is shaped to substantially conform to a second shape of the second vertebral endplate.